

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 L-03 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:JPBECKER:EMM

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

ARA/PAN:PFMORRIS

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P 121619Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USCINCO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS

1. DEPARTMENT NOTIFIED GOP ON AUGUST 10 THAT CONSUL-
TATIONS WITHIN THE US GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND
THAT THE US NEGOTIATING TEAM HEADED BY AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE
BUNKER PREPARED TO RETURN TO PANAMA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER
TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS. GOP WELCOMED THE NEWS AND
AGREED TO EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR THE NEXT NEGOTIATING ROUND.
THE INFORMATION WAS IMMEDIATELY MADE PUBLIC AND RECEIVED
WIDE COVERAGE IN THE PANAMANIAN PRESS.

2. ON AN IF ASKED BASIS, DEPARTMENT IS CONFIRMING THAT A
NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER AND
THAT THIS IS THE RESULT OF RECENT CONSULTATIONS AMONG
INTERESTED AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON. SHOULD THERE BE ANY
QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE SNYDER AMENDMENT, THE DEPARTMENT
WILL MERELY NOTE THAT THE AMENDMENT HAS NOT BEEN
ENACTED AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING. POSTS
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SHOULD DRAW ON THIS GUIDANCE AS NEEDED IN REPLYING TO

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA AND/OR HOST GOVERNMENTS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE190432
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPBECKER:EMM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750278-0494
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750860/aaaacall.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, US
To: ALL POSTS USCINCO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006